HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

1854-1904

MONTREAL, CAN.





EXTERIOR OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.



OLD INTERIOR OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.



NEW INTERIOR OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH,

1854—1904

MONTREAL, CANADA.

RECTORS OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.

Ven. Archdeacon Gilson	1854
Rev. F. B. Tate	1859
Rev. J. Torrance	1860
Rev. J. Irwin	1861
Rev. M. S. Baldwin (now Lord Bishop of Huron)	1865
Rev. Jas. Thorneloe	1870
Rev. E. I. Rexford, M.A., LL.D. (now Principal of the Montreal Diocesan College)	1877
Rev. E. J. Houghton	1877
Rev. L. DesBrisay	1878
Rev. J. F. Sweeny	1880
Rev. P. Cross	1882
Rev. Geo. Rogers, B.A.	1883
Rev. T. E. Cunningham, M.A.	1890
Rev. S. H. Mallinson, B.A., B.D.	1901
Rev. W. W. Craig, M.A.	1902

See reference to St Luke's in Bishop Fulford's Charge 1855. p. 34

Historical Sketch of St. Luke's Church,

1854--1904.

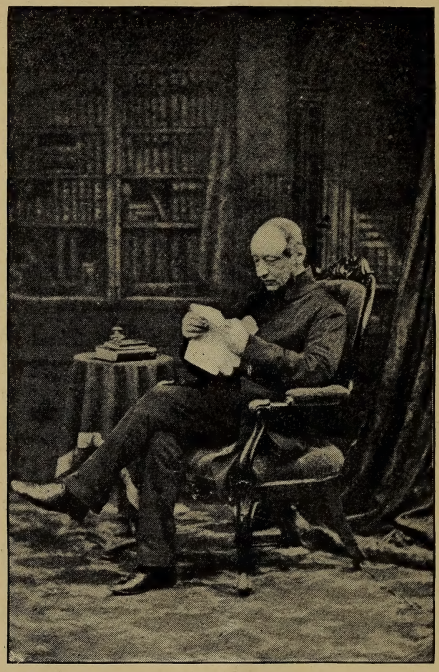
St. Luke's Church, one of the most historic in Montreal, may be said to have arisen Phoenix-like out of the fire. The year 1852 was noted in Montreal for two large fires. One of these started on July 9th, and raged for nearly two days. Acres of ground were blackened with the ashes of homes and business establishments, the value of which amounted to many thousands of dollars. When it had burned itself out, Lady Huntingdon's Church, now for many years known as St. Thomas', was found to have been devoured by the fiery element, and the congregation was left without a home. The incumbent, the Rev. John Irwin, at once set about to raise subscriptions towards a new church for his flock. He consulted with Bishop Fulford, and enlisted his sympathy and assistance. Before his efforts had proceeded far, however, he received a call to St. John's, Que., and accepting this, he transferred his responsibilities to other hands.

The Rev. Canon Gilson was then a young man attached to Christ Church Cathedral. He once practically had charge of the Gosford Street Church, which was afterwards sold to Trinity congregation. Mr. Gilson was chosen then to take up the work where the Rev. Mr. Irwin laid it down.

During a part of the time that elapsed between the burning of St. Thomas's Church and the building of St. Luke's, the congregation worshipped in the East End Methodist Church. The rest of the time they had the use of a schoolhouse which stood on St. Denis street, at the corner of Champ de Mars street.

About the first thing Mr. Gilson did was to secure a site for his proposed new church. At the corner of Dorchester and Champlain streets was a burial ground owned by the late Mrs. Aylwin, wife of the late Mr. Justice Aylwin, of Quebec, and a daughter of the late Dr. Charles Blake. In fact, Dr. Blake, a hundred years ago, owned a large farm in that district, which was then generally known as the Quebec suburbs. In 1811 the heirs of this estate sold the greater portion of the farm to the late Mr. William Logan, but a plot of ground 70 feet by 90 feet, French measure, was fenced off and used as a burial ground by the Blake family. Within this enclosure there was a monument and a family vault. These are believed to have been

erected some years previous to 1811, probably over one hundred years ago. That spot is to-day the site of St. Luke's Church. The monument was removed years ago, but the vault still remains, situated directly under the chancel and in good condition. The size of the vault is nineteen feet long, eight and a half feet wide by nine feet high. The walls are of masonry (stone), and the roof is of brick and arched. In the west wall of the vault is embedded a large slab bearing an inscription: "In memory of Charles Blake, Esq., who died at Montreal, 22nd April, 1810, aged 64 years." There were at one



ARCHDEACON GILSON,
A former Rector of St. Luke's.

time fourteen bodies in the vault. The entrance to the vault is by an iron door leading from one of the rooms off the lecture hall.

The site for St. Luke's Church was donated to the Bishop of Montreal by Mrs. Aylwin in 1852, on condition that the chancel of the proposed edifice should be built over the vault. This was done, and still so remains.

The work of building the church was soon commenced. In those days such a contract was not so speedily completed as it would be to-

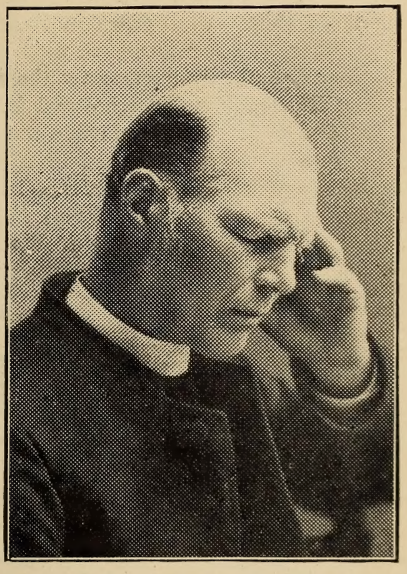
day. In a few months sufficient progress was made to allow of services being held in the basement, but the church proper was not opened until June 17, 1854, which date is looked upon as the birthday of the church. The architect or contractor of the original building was a Mr. Scobell.

The Rev. Mr. Gilson was, of course, the real founder and first rector of the church.

The first carpet laid in the chancel of St. Luke's Church was made by hand by the ladies of the church. Mrs. Fulford, wife of Bishop Fulford, being a skilful assistant in this undertaking. The carpet was made in squares, and sewed together.



THE LATE REV. JOHN IRWIN,
A former rector of St. Luke's.



THE RT. REV. M. S. BALDWIN, D.D.,
Bishop of Huron.

The early members and adherents of St. Luke's belonged largely to good old English families, many of them carrying on business for themselves. It was a very prosperous church and did splendid work, though without display or ostentation. The Sunday-school in the early days was considered one of the best in the city. From July 14, 1861, to March, 1862, the church was used by the Royal Canadian Rifles as their place of worship.

The Rev. Canon Gilson was highly esteemed, and a window has been erected in the south side of the church in his honor, bearing the following inscription:—"In memory of the Rev. Samuel Gilson,

M.A., first rector of this parish and Archdeacon of Montreal ; died January 1, 1892." The Rev. F. B. Tate succeeded Canon Gilson in 1859. He came from England, where he had a charge which he did not relinquish, and to which he returned after remaining at St. Luke's about a year. While he was at St. Luke's Mrs. Tate was organist, and their son, Frank, was leader of the choir.

There are several memorial windows in the church. In the chancel is one in memory of Maria L., a young daughter of Bishop Baldwin, who died in 1867; another to Emily H. M. Johnson, daughter of the late Mr. T. R. Johnson, who died in 1863; others commemorate Mr. Arthur Ellis Nelson and Mr. James Brabazon Nelson, young sons of Mr. James Nelson, the architect. A window in the west end of the church was erected in 1864 in memory of the late Mrs. Ashley Hibbard, by her husband, while a window in the south side, mentioned above, commemorates the founder of the church.

The communion table and furnishings were donated by the late Col. Sinton. The flagon was the gift of Mr. James Heath. One of the chalices was presented by a lady whose name is unknown, and bears the inscription "for special mercies, March 17, 1861; consecrated April 20, 1862." The other chalice and the patten were presented by members as a thank-offering for preservation from the cholera plague of 1854. This service seems to have been donated and first used in 1862.

The Rev. John Torrance followed Mr. Tate as rector, but his term was also very brief, lasting about a year, that of 1860-61. There is very little to be found in the church records about him, and very few persons survive who remember him. He is said to have been quite successful, and well liked. He went from St. Luke's Church to Three Rivers, where, it is believed, he died.

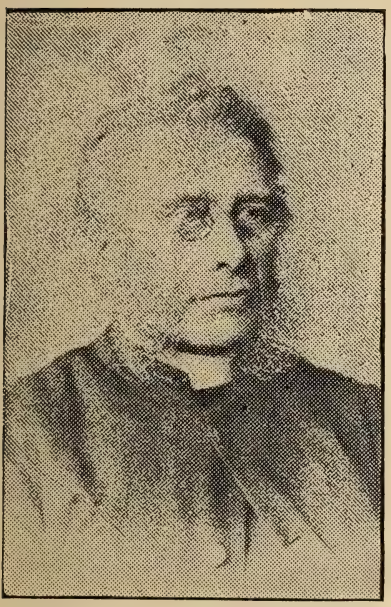
In 1861 the Rev. John Irwin returned to St. Luke's from St. John's. His early interest in the welfare of the church had not waned, and he was not long in charge before he began to arrange for improving and extending the edifice. He visited the Old Country and raised funds for this purpose, and at the Easter vestry meeting in the spring of 1862, plans were presented for the proposed alterations. A building committee was appointed, with the late Lieut.-Col. J. C. Sinton as treasurer and Mr. James Nelson as secretary. Mr. J. E. Kirkpatrick and the late Mr. Wiliam R. Salter were also members of the committee.

Col. Sinton was at that time an officer of the Hochelaga Light Infantry, which has since developed into the Royal Scots. He was killed by a train at St. Lambert a few years ago and his widow still lives there.

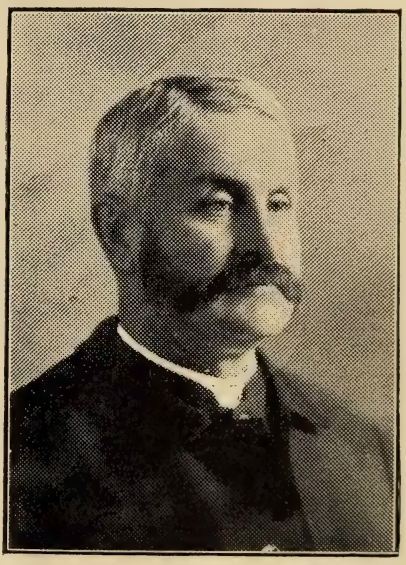
Mr. James Nelson was appointed the architect to carry out the alterations, and as secretary of the committee he had a good deal to

do with collecting the funds and keeping the accounts. Mr. Nelson commenced his career in this church as a choir boy. He became a warden and was more than once appointed a delegate to the Synod. He was also for many years teacher of the infant class in the Sunday school.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, of the firm of Kirkpatrick & Cookson, was a warden of the church in 1863 and 1864. Mr. Salter followed him in that capacity in 1865. Mr. Salter in company with Mr. Ross published the Montreal "Gazette" for a number of years before that paper was acquired by the present proprietors. The late Mr. Salter was most intimate with Bishop Baldwin. His widow still survives and resides at Outremont.



THE REV. JAMES THORNLOE,
A former Rector of St. Luke's.



THE REV. E. I. REXFORD, M.A.,
Now rector of the Montreal High Schools.

The improvements then carried out included the addition of the two transepts; the enlargement and elevation of the chancel; the erection of a new organ chamber and vestry, and the completion of the body of the church. The original structure was a plain but pleasing example of the early English Gothic style of architecture, and the improvements were carried out in conformity with that style. These were completed in 1863 at a cost of about four thousand dollars. The extension of the original lot, which was necessary to admit of the additions required, was made possible by the purchase of a

strip of land on Dorchester street, and by the acquisition of other pieces of ground donated by Mr. James Logan and Mr. David.

The Rev. Mr. Irwin had the reputation of being one of the foremost Latin scholars of his day. He was also one of the most eloquent preachers in Montreal during his residence here. After leaving Montreal he went into missionary work in Northern Ontario, and died there. The Rev. Richard Irwin, of Beauharnois, is a son of the late Mr. Irwin.

The Rev. D. Borthwick supplied the pulpit for a short time after the retirement of the Rev. Mr. Irwin.

The Rev. M. S. Baldwin, D.D., now Bishop Baldwin, of Huron, succeeded Mr. Irwin in 1865. His eloquence attracted large congregations. The capacity of the church was taxed and the cause was greatly strengthened. The workers, which have always been very earnest, became enthusiastic, and his term was one of the most prosperous in the history of the congregation. One of the memorial windows in the chancel was erected to the memory of one of his daughters who died during his incumbency. The Right Rev. Maurice Scollard Baldwin, Bishop of Huron, is the fourth son of the late John S. Baldwin, of Toronto. He was born in 1836; educated at the Upper Canada College and Trinity College University, graduating M. A. in 1859. He was ordained a priest in 1861 and became curate of St. Thomas's Church, St. Thomas, Ont. He subsequently became incumbent of St. Paul's Church, Port Dover, and came to Montreal in 1865. After about four years at St. Luke's he was appointed in 1870 to Christ Church Cathedral. He was made a canon in 1871, and on the death of the Very Rev. Dr. Bethune, in 1872, he succeeded to the rectorship of the Cathedral. In 1879 he was appointed Dean of Montreal. In 1883 he was appointed third Bishop of Huron, which office he still holds.

Bishop Baldwin was succeeded at St. Luke's in 1870 by the Rev. James Thorneloe. After Mr. Thorneloe's retirement the church passed through its most trying experience.

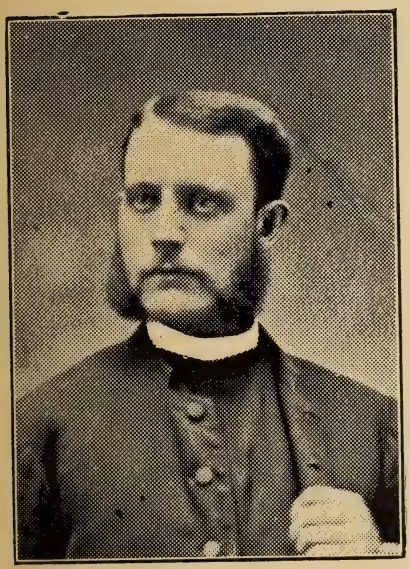
The Rev. Mr. Thorneloe was born and educated at Coventry, Warwickshire, England. He came to Canada in 1858, and entered the ministry in the diocese of Quebec. His first charge was Georgeville, where he was appointed in 1864. His next and last appointment was to St. Luke's, in 1870, where he remained until 1875. Mrs. Thorneloe died in 1874. In the following year Mr. Thorneloe retired owing to ill health, and never resumed the active work of the ministry. He died in 1901. His sons are Walter, the eldest, and Ralph, the youngest, both of Montreal, and the second son is the present Bishop of Algoma.

The Rev. E. I. Rexford, M.A., then a theological student, supplied for a few months, but ill-health compelled him to give up the work, much to the regret of the congregation. The Rev. E. J.

Houghton, another student, next filled the gap for a few months, and in 1878 the Rev. L. DesBrisay was appointed rector.

The Rev. Mr. DesBrisay came from Bathurst, N.B. On leaving St. Luke's, he went to Hamilton, Ont.; he afterwards returned to the province, and was the incumbent at Sorel before going to St. Agathe, where he is now the rector.

In 1877, when the affairs of the church were in such a discouraging condition, Mrs. Aylwin, fearing the church might be sold and the vault desecrated, obtained permission by a special act of parliament to remove the remains of her friends and relatives to Quebec, where



THE REV. L. DESBRISAY,
Of Ste. Agathe, formerly of St. Luke's Church.



THE REV. J. F. SWEENEY, D.D.,
Of St. Philip's Church, Toronto, formerly of St. Luke's.

they were taken and reinterred. Owing to the strenuous efforts of the late Col. Sinton, the rector, and a few others, the church was kept up and in time was put on a sound financial basis once more. The church has always been actually supported by voluntary contributions, there being but two small annuities, together amounting to a little over one hundred dollars; one being a bequest from the late Mrs. Aylwin and the other from the Smart estate.

In 1880 the Rev. J. F. Sweeny, D.D., now Canon Sweeny, of Toronto, became rector of St. Luke's. The Rev. James Fielding Sweeny is a son of Col. James F. Sweeny, of Westmount, formerly

Her Majesty's staff-officer of pensions at Montreal. Canon Sweeny was born in London, Eng., in 1857. He came to Canada with his parents while quite young and was educated at the High School, McGill Normal School and University (B. A., 1878; M. A., 1881), and pursued his theological studies at the Diocesan College here. He was ordained a deacon in 1880, and priest in 1881; he received from the University of Trinity College, Toronto, the degree of M.A. (ad eund.) in 1883; he won the B. D. degree in the same year, and had the degree of D. D. conferred upon him, in course, in 1888. On his ordination in 1880, he was called to St. Luke's and was also appointed chaplain to the Montreal General Hospital. He did a solid and permanent work in St. Luke's Church during his two years' stay, but resigned in 1882, to accept a call to become rector of St. Philip's Church, Toronto. In 1889 he was named an honorary canon of St. Alban's Cathedral, Toronto, and he was elected rural dean of Toronto in 1895. He has been an active promotor of the Church of England Temperance Society.

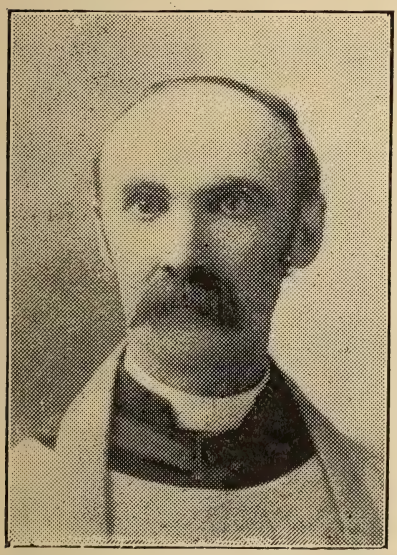
His successor was the Rev. Parnell Cross. Mr. Cross stayed but a short time when he received a call to a church in New York, which he accepted, and he is believed to be still engaged in the ministry in the United States.

He was followed in 1883 by the Rev. George Rogers, B.A. Mr. Rogers was a very energetic minister and did a noble work for the east end of the city. During his incumbency the smallpox broke out in the east end. His sympathies for the victims led him to devote a large portion of his time to visiting them. Fearless of contagion he went into their homes, conversed and prayed with them, and brought consolation to many a dying patient. He was a broad minded and liberal spirited man, and visited victims of all denominations alike, relieving the ministers of other churches of a very dangerous task. He escaped the disease and continued to minister to his own congregation until 1890. It was during his incumbency and due to his indefatigable energy that the rectory was built on the lot adjoining the church in 1888. This is a very neat, comfortable and substantial stone building, and cost about four thousand dollars, all of which was paid off inside of two years from the time it was occupied. A short time before he left Montreal he took sick with typhoid fever and this was the direct cause of his retirement. He went out to Winnipeg for the good of his health, and while there was made a canon of the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Leaving there he went to the Southern States, where he was engaged in ministerial and educational work for some few years.

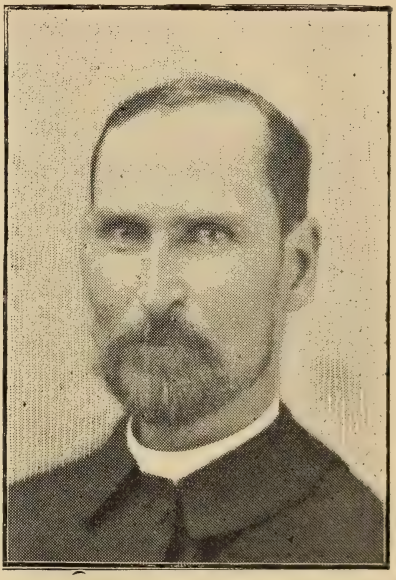
The Rev. T. E. Cunningham, M.A., succeeded to the rectorship of St. Luke's in 1890. His hard work and mild disposition endeared him to his people both old and young. In 1895 the heating system

of the church was changed from hot air to hot water at a cost of $1,000; subsequently, a new iron fence was erected around the property; the lecture hall was improved, and the interior of the church was decorated, at a total cost of $1,300. These sums having been paid off, a new roof was put on the church in 1900, at a cost of $1,400. The Ladies' Aid Society raised a large proportion of this amount and the total indebtedness was wiped out very shortly after the repairs had been completed. Mrs. Salter, of Outremont, donated $100 towards the roofing fund.

The Rev. M. Cunningham was born at Rawdon in 1856. He graduated from McGill, M.A., in 1883, having graduated in theology



THE REV. GEORGE ROGERS, B.A.,
Rector of St. Luke's, 1883-90.



THE LATE REV. T. E. CUNNINGHAM, M.A.,
A recent rector of St. Luke's.

from the Diocesan College three years previously. His death on November 22, 1901, was a sad blow to the church.

After long deliberation a call was extended to the Rev. S. H. Mallinson, of Grenville, to become Mr. Cunningham's successor. Mr. Mallinson accepted, and was inducted to the new charge on February 11, 1902. Few clergymen have so quickly and firmly won the affection of their parishioners as did Mr. Mallinson, but his career at St. Luke's was destined to be short. In the latter part of February, he took sick with appendicitis and pneumonia, and after a few days' ill-

ness passed away on March 2, 1902, sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

The Rev. Mr. Mallinson's successor was the Rev. W. W. Craig, M.A., the present rector. The Rev. William Woodham Craig is a son of Mr. Alexander Craig, of this city. He received his early education at the Montreal High School, and graduated in arts from McGill University in 1895, and in theology from the Diocesan College in 1897. He was first curate at St. Martin's Church, and subsequently became curate of Trinity Church, St. John, N.B., whence he returned to assume the rectorship of St. Luke's Church, preaching his first sermon there on Sunday, May 18, 1902, and being formally inducted on the following evening.

Among the clergymen who have held appointments at St. Luke's, the following were graduates of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College:—The Rev. Messrs. Rexford, Houghton, Sweeny, Cross, Rogers, Cunningham, Mallinson and Craig.

An interesting part of the religious exercises at St. Luke's, as in all Anglican churches, is the musical portion of the services. St. Luke's, in fact, was, in its palmy days noted for the excellence of its music. The late Mr. H. Arnold was long connected with the musical affairs of the church, and was one of the earliest leaders of the choir. Several of his daughters sang in the choir and one of them, who afterwards became the wife of Mr. R. S. Caldecott, of Toronto, was known beyond the boundaries of this province as a sweet singer.

The late Mr. William Powell was one of the organists of this church. He married a daughter of the late Mr. John Robb, biscuit manufacturer, of this city. He subsequently went to Halifax, N. S., to reside, and died there. Another of the organists was Miss Hoerner, now Mrs. Walter Thorneloe. She was also a vocalist of some note. Another organist was Mr. Ernest Sumner, who now holds a similar position in a church at Highland Park, Chicago, Ill. The present organist is Mr. W. J. Larminie, B.A.

St. Luke's Sunday school has always been considered one of the most important departments of the church's work. The first superintendent was Mr. Raffin. He was followed by Mr. J. C. Macdonald, and exceedingly good and capable man, under whom the school made much progress.

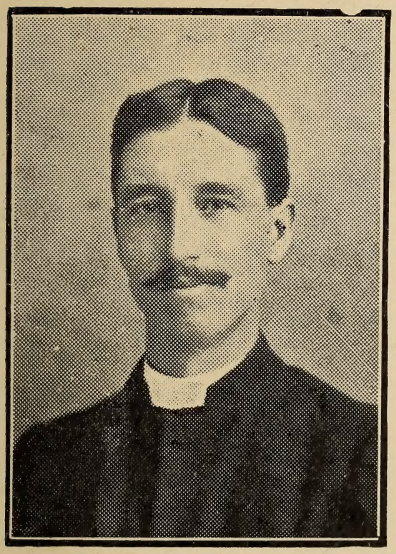
Mr. R. Stapleton Caldecott succeeded him. He was also a good administrator, and under his direction the school flourished perhaps more than at any other period in its history. Mr. Caldecott was with T. J. Claxton & Company, in Montreal. He severed his connection with the school when he went to Toronto as head of the firm of Caldecott, Burton & Co. He still resides in Toronto, where he is well-known in connection with the temperance cause. He is also a

governor of Wycliffe College, and takes a prominent part in the discussion of the leading questions of the day.

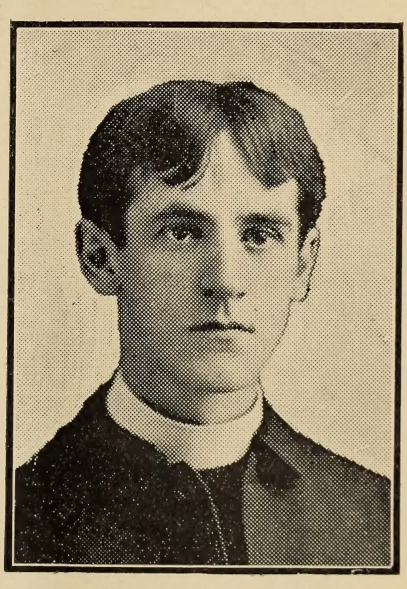
Mr. J. G. Snasdell followed him as superintendent and filled the position with much success for a great many years. His successors in office were Mr. J. H. Beck and the present superintendent, Mr. E. J. Carey.

The school to-day is in a very satisfactory condition considering the great drawback experienced in consequence of the death of two recent rectors, who were intensely interested in the welfare of the school and were beloved by the scholars.

The records of St. Luke's Church are not complete further back than 1866. Since that date the rector's wardens have been as follows:



THE LATE REV. S. H. MALLINSON.
A former Rector of St. Luke's.



THE REV. W. W. CRAIG, B.A.,
Present rector of St. Luke's Church.

Messrs. D. Smith, 1866-71; T. W. Herst, 1872-74; Thomas Lamb, 1875-79; Col. J. C. Sinton, 1880; Thomas Lamb, 1881; J. G. Snasdell, 1882; J. C. Sinton, 1883-84; J. G. Snasdell, 1885-87; T. W. Herst, 1888; G. H. Wray, 1889; J. S. Snasdell, 1890; J. G. Snasdell, 1891; T. E. Lamb, 1892-95; S. Stone, 1896; R. J. Parker, 1897-98; J. S. Snasdell, 1899; S. Stone, 1900-04. The people's wardens, from the same date, have been as under: Messrs. H. H. Geddes, 1866-67; Chas. Sheppard, 1868-69; S. Filer, 1870-71; J. C. Sinton, 1872-74; Thos. Binmore, 1875; J. W. Hill, 1876-80; W. D. Beardsell, 1881-82; Philip Finch, 1883; J. G. Snasdell, 1884; Wm.

Prance, 1885-87; John Hyde, 1888; A. Hinton, 1889; John Hyde, 1890; J. S. Sinton, 1891; Jas. Elliott, 1892; Wm. Petts, 1893-94; J. F. Wray, 1895; J. E. Syer, 1896; J. W. Hayes, Jr., 1897-98; T. E. Lamb, Jr., 1899-1904.

Lieut.-Col. Ibbotson and Major Laurie were the first librarians of the Sunday school.

During the last two years, and in anticipation of the Jubilee commemoration, which takes place in June, 1904, the following improvements have been made to the church:—The chancel has been enlarged, floored with tiles, and improved by the addition of a brass chancel rail and a marble step. A brass lectern, a memorial to the Rev. T. E. Cunningham, and an oak pulpit, a memorial to the Rev. S. H. Mallinson, have been installed. The church has been reseated throughout in polished oak, and has been furnished with a system of electric lighting instead of gas. The entrance has been improved by the addition of a new vestibule, and stone steps which add very much to the appearance of the exterior of the building. The School room has been painted and re-papered throughout. For all these, and for fifty years of useful work as a parish, in the development of the Kingdom of Christ in this city, the rector, members and congregation are profoundly thankful to the great Head of the church.

The officials of St. Luke's Church for the Jubilee year, are as follows:—

Rector.—Rev. W. W. Craig, M.A.
Wardens.—Messrs. S. Stone and T. E. Lamb.
Treasurer.—Wm. Rumsey, Esq.
Lay Reader.—R. R. Neild, Esq.
President of the Ladies' Aid.—Mrs. Thos. Lamb.
President of the Woman's Auxiliary.—Mrs. W. W. Craig.
Superintendent of Sunday School.—E. J. Carey, Esq.
Director of Brotherhood of St. Andrew.—J. H. Beck, Esq.
President of Men's Association.—H. Sinn, Esq.
Librarian.—R. L. Shephard, Esq.
Organist and Choir Master.—W. J. Larminie, B.A.

MONTREAL CANADA
STATION C